

Police Tasked on Killers of 5 Teenagers

The families of five teenagers who were victims of extra judicial killing carried out by a group known as "Miki Boys" in Umuchiakuma Ihechiowa, Arochukwu Local Government Area of Abia State, have cried out to the state police command to fish out the suspected killers.

The victims identified as Chidiebere Agwu, Ukpai Kalu Ebu, Chibuzor Nnanna Kalu Igber, Emeka Ota Arunsi, and Obasi Obasi, were said to have been executed in broad day light on September 3, this year.

Parents of the slain boys expressed their plight through their counsel, E.A. Igwe & Co, in a petition to the Abia State Commissioner of Police dated September 18, which was made available to THISDAY in Umuahia.

In the petition, the families said that their children aged between 16 and 18 years were killed by a gang known as "Miki Boys" adding that the suspected killers were now intimidating them to prevent them from making statements about the extra judicial killings.

THISDAY further gathered that the deputy governor of

ABIA

From Emmanuel Ugwu

in Umuahia

the state, Comrade Chris Akomas, was said to have seen the bodies of the murdered boys dumped by the road side while on his way to attend the burial of the late secretary to the state government, Chief Nnaukwu Ukeha.

The deputy governor was also said to have expressed shock and

horror at the sordid spectacle and ordered the local council authorities to bury the bodies only for them to dig a grave and bury the murdered teenagers in a mass grave.

But parents of the victims have jointly urged the police to expedite action and arrest the suspects and bring them to book to stop them from intimidating the deceased families.

In the petition which was also copied to the state governor, Inspector General of Police, state

director of SSS, Chief Judge of Abia State, among others, the counsel to the families insisted that the killing of their teenage boys was unjustified as they were not found guilty of any crime by any court of law and sentenced to death. "What actually surprised members of the public was the broad day light mass killing of these five boys by the culprits and that the killing was carried out at Ugwu Ogbuaba, the boundary between Ndi Uduma Ohafia and Ihechiowa," the petition said.

Nigeria, Niger Partner to Tackle Poverty

The Nigerian government and its Nigerian counterpart have resolved to tackle poverty as well as renew cooperation between both countries.

Minister of Commerce and Industry for Nigeria, Engr. Charles Ugwu and his Nigerian counterpart, Halidou Badje, announced this at a joint press briefing in Abuja.

According to Badje, "When we talk about our countries we are not talking about border

ICI

From Funmi Peter-Omale

in Abuja

problems or trade barriers. We are talking about how the peoples of the two countries are living together and working together. I want to say that the authorities of our two countries are working against poverty; we must work together to fight poverty. I want to assure that the

Nigerien government will collaborate with the Nigerian authorities."

Also speaking, Ugwu noted that Nigeria and Niger have a common history as well as share a number of things in common including marriage and trade.

"During the course of this meeting, we are going to be discussing a number of issues bordering on trade, and all other activities both formal and informal. We are looking at ways of helping each other and